

Message Text

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PAGE 01 COLOMB 01327 250407Z

ACTION TRSE-00

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 EB-08 EA-10 EUR-12 IO-13

H-01 L-03 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 FRB-03 INR-10

NSAE-00 USIA-06 XMB-02 OPIC-03 SP-02 LAB-04

SIL-01 OMB-01 NSC-05 SS-15 STR-07 CEA-01 /123 W

-----127782 250409Z /64

R 221100Z MAR 78

FM AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9860

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EGEN,EFIN,CE

SUBJECT: ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK ANNUAL MEETING

REF (A) STATE 070314, (B) COLOMBO 1107, (C) COLOMBO 1315

1.S. VELAYUTHAM, DIRECTOR OF EXTERNAL RESOURCES,MINISTRY OF FINANACE AND PLANNING, TOLD ECON OFFICER HE WOULD ATTEND ADB MEETING IN VIENNA,AND HIS OFFICE WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR PREPARING THE SRI LANKAN POSITON FOR THAT MEETING. VELAYUTHAM SAID, HOWEVER, THAT WITH RECENT IMF AND WORLD BANK MISSIONS IN COLOMBO, NO ONE HAS HAD A CHANCE TO FOCUS ON ADB ISSUES. HE SAID HE WOULD HAVE TO CONSULT WITH FINANCE MINISTER RONNIE DE MEL ON THE QUESTION OF BILATERAL MEETINGS WITH THE U.S. HIS INITIAL REACTION, HOWEVER,WAS THT SRI LANKA DID NOT HAVE ANY SPECIAL ISSUES TO RAISE WITH THE US.S. HE PROMISED TO INFORM THE EMBASSY OF THE RESULTS OF HIS TALKS WITH THE FINANCE MINISTER.

2. VELAYUTHAM SAID THE SRI LANKAN DELEGATION WOULD PROBABLY BE MADE UP OF MINISTER DE MEL,FINANCE SECRETARY LAL JAYAWARDENA,HIMSELF,AND DR.L.E.N.FERNANDO, DIRECTOR OF PRICE AND WAGES POLICY. THIS SAME TEAM

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WILL GO ON TO PARIS FOR THE SRI LANKA AID CONSORTIUM MEETING THE FIRST WEEK OF MAY. VELAYUTHAM SAID HE WOULD CONFIRM THE DELEGATION'S COMPOSITON IN A "WEEK OR TWO."

3. COMMENT. IT SEEMS UNLIKELY THAT MINISTER DEL MEL WILL PASS UP AN OPPORTUNITY TO PLEAD SRI LANKA'S CAUSE FOR GREATER U.S. AS WELL AS ADB AID FLOWS WITH

SECRETARY BLUMENTHAL.THE GOVERNMENT OF SRI LANKA
(GSL) HAS RECEIVED HIGH PRAISE FOR THE ECONOMIC
REFORMS FROM THE IMF AND FROM WORLD BANK VP DAVID
HOPPER (REFTELS B AND C). ALTHOUGH USAID PROJECT
LENDING HAS EXPANDED FROM ZERO IN FY 74 TO ABOUT \$25
MILLION FY 78 (PROJECTED \$30 MILLION FOR FY 80),
GSL OFFICIALS HAVE INDICATED SOME CONCERN THAT THE U.S.
IS NOT RESPONDING ADEQUATELY TO THEIR DESIRE TO
ACCELERATE THE MAHAWELI IRRIGATION PROJECT. THE EMBASSY'S
SUGGESTED RESPONSE IF GSL RAISES THIS ISSUE
FOLLOWS BY SEPTTEL.
WRIGGINS

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Message Attributes

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